Zhen Zhen's Dream
1. Zhen Zhen is a spoiled little girl. She won’t even put on her own shoes and waits for her mother to do it for her.
2. She's very finicky about her food and never likes anything.
3. One day Zhen Zhen’s mother says to her: “If you keep on like this, you’ll never grow up tall and strong.” But Zhen Zhen doesn’t care. “I’m not afraid,” she says.
4. Zhen Zhen feeds the cat with the nice fish dish her mother has prepared especially for her.
And when her dog comes up to her, she gives him her nice meat.
6. She stuffs her vegetables into her duckling's mouth.
7. Duckling grows very, very big, while Zhen Zhen gets smaller and smaller.
8. One day, she is so weak she falls asleep on the table. Big bubbles seem to be pushing her up . . . up, and she thinks it would be fun to make a trip into space.
9. Higher and higher! Then suddenly the bubbles break one after another and Zhen Zhen begins to fall. Luckily, a dragonfly saves her.
10. Dragonfly carries her through woods and flowers to a faraway place.
11. Finally they land in a world of insects. The insects welcome their guests with a feast.
13. A bee helps Zhen Zhen in the make-up room.
14. When everyone is ready, a butterfly announces: “I’m very happy to introduce Zhen Zhen who will do a dance with our ladybird.”
15. The dance is really lovely.
16. The ladybird dances faster and faster, but Zhen Zhen feels dizzy and falls down.
17. That night she feels very embarrassed and cannot go to sleep. She hears the animals talking about her while she lies awake.
18. The frog says, "Zhen Zhen is too weak to dance. She must be a lazy insect." This hurts Zhen Zhen's feelings.
19. Snail says to Tortoise, “Or maybe her mother sent her to us because she didn’t listen to her.”
20. When Zhen Zhen goes for a walk the next day with Tortoise and Snail, and gets up on Tortoise's back, she meets Frog.
21. "You’re too spoiled, little girl. Look at you, riding on someone’s back!" says Frog.
22. Zhen Zhen is annoyed. “Who’s spoiled? I can even run fast. If you don’t believe it, let’s have a race.”
24. So Zhen Zhen says to Snail and Tortoise: "All right. I'll race you."
They run and run, but Zhen Zhen can’t keep up with Tortoise and Snail.
26. Zhen Zhen’s legs get heavier and heavier, and no matter how hard she tries, she cannot run fast.
27. Tortoise and Snail stop and look back, but they cannot even see Zhen Zhen.
28. Zhen Zhen tries to crawl along, but she's too weak even to do that and just kneels on the ground and cries.
29. Tortoise and Snail run back and help her stand up. Snail says, “And another thing — good children don’t cry.”
30. Tortoise says: “Aren’t you ashamed to cry!”
31. Two bees fly over. Mantis asks them what they’ve come for, and they answer, “To take Zhen Zhen over to our hive.”
32. Zhen Zhen gets as busy as a bee, passing honey buckets along with the others.
33. The buckets pass quickly from one bee to another. It's almost like a dance. But pretty soon Zhen Zhen is tired and the buckets pile up in front of her.
34. Zhen Zhen wants to keep up with the others, so she works very hard till she falls off the leaf where they’re working and drops onto spider’s web hammock.
35. The bees all start buzzing at once: “Zhen Zhen just can’t do anything!” “It looks like she’s never done a drop of work.”
36. The wind blows hard, and a bee calls out, "Come here, Zhen Zhen! A storm is coming. Bring the bucket!"
37. The rain comes down. Zhen Zhen tries, but she can't even carry the empty bucket.
She gets mad and kicks the bucket away.
39: The bucket rolls away for a while, then the wind blows it back towards Zhen Zhen. She’s frightened and starts to run.
40. She runs only a few steps and then feels like she's falling again. “Help . . . Help . . .,” she cries.
41. Zhen Zhen wakes herself up. She's all in a sweat from her bad dream.
42. But Zhen Zhen has learned a lesson from that dream. She dresses herself and puts on her own shoes.
43. She remembers her dream at breakfast and eats in big mouthfuls. And she doesn’t keep saying she doesn’t like it.
Her puppy, cat and duckling all come round but get none of Zhen Zhen’s food.
45. Zhen Zhen raises her bowl and says proudly, “Look, I’ve eaten it all up myself!”
One day Zhen Zhen dreamt that she lived in a world of insects that asked her to dance with them. She was happy in her dream but happier when she woke up.